The forest cover of Goa is not available as on 1961. First time the assessment of forest cover was done only in 1987. The forest cover of the State of Goa in 1987 was 1,240 km^2 and in 2005 it is 2,164 km^2. The increase is mainly on account of technological developments as smaller patches and cashew/coconut plantations are also included in the assessment.

The following steps have been taken by the Ministry to improve the forest cover on the country:

(i) The Ministry is implementing National Afforestation Programme (NAP) through the Forest Development Agencies (FDAs) at the forest division level and the Joint Forest Management Committees at the village level.

(ii) Ministry has launched Grants-in-Aid for Greening India Scheme in Tenth Plan to augment production and use of Quality Planting Material (QPM) so that productivity of public and private land plantations is increased, and individuals and communities are encouraged to take up more tree planting.

(iii) A new Scheme, Gram Van Yojana (GVY), has been mooted for afforestation on non-forest lands involving PRIs. Scheme to be launched in Eleventh Plan for which an allocation of Rs. 900 crores has been made.

(iv) New Eco-Task Force (ETF) Battalions of ex-servicemen are being established in collaboration with the States to regenerate difficult and inaccessible areas. Two new ETF battalions are being raised for Assam during the year.

The State Government is making all out efforts to restock the degraded Forest areas under various scheme of the State Government, Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) and under Compensatory Afforestation. Seedlings are also distributed to the general public, fanners, NGO's etc. on nominal payment or free of cost to plant over the waste land, vacant land and fallow land. Besides, the Forest Department is also supplying free seedlings to Panchayat, Schools, Colleges, Educational Institutions to encourage mass plantation during Vanamahotsav.

Forest Survey of India (FSI) uses remote sensing technology wherein satellite data is interpreted and then ground verification is done.

The last forest cover assessment pertains to 2005, the results of which were published in 'State of Forest Report 2005' in February, 2008.

Sewage treatment plants

3280, SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that it is necessary to set up sewage treatment plants under Ganga and Yamuna Action Plan;

if so, the details of the treatment plants working in the different States; and

whether Government is also providing funds for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EN VIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been set up in different identified towns as one of the core pollution abatement schemes under the Ganga Action Plan (GAP) and Yamuna Action Plan (YAP). These plants are meant for treating

the intercepted and diverted sewage to the desired standards before its disposal into the receiving body. The State-wise status of STPs under GAP and YAP is at the Statement (See below).

(c) The Government of India has sanctioned pollution abatement schemes including setting up of STP under different River Conservation Plans at an estimated cost of Rs. 4405 crore on a cost sharing basis between Government of India and the respective State Government.

Statement

State-wise status of STPs set up under GAP & YAP

State	Status of STPs		
	Sanctioned	Completed	Working*
Uttarakhand/ Uttar Pradesh	48	31	27
Bihar	76	4	
Delhi	76	2	
Haryana	17	17	10
West Bengal	44	27	15
TOTAL:	121	87	58

* Status of STPs working in different States as per CPCB Inspection Report (February 2006) wherein 60 STPs in above States were monitored.

Eco-Task Forces

3281. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

whether Eco-Task Forces (ETFs) have been raised in several States following approval granted by Government;

if so, State-wise details of ETFs approved since inception up-to-date and sizes of ETF raised by respective States showing their forest cover sizes and ETF per-capita coverage in each case *vis-a-vis* the norms therefor;

the annual cost of the exchequer in each case;

State-wise details of requests received by Government during the last five years seeking approval for raising additional ETF battalions indicating forest cover of each State;

the details of approval granted, refused and pending, if any; and

reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per information made available by the Territorial Army Directorate, Ministry of Defence the State-wise details of four Eco-Task Force (ETF) battalions funded by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, and the forests cover as per State of Forest Report 2005 published by Forest Survey of India in the respective States are furnished in the ANNEXURE. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is encouraging the Territorial Army Directorate to